AN

EXPLANATION

OF THE

Vices of the Age:

SHEWING

The Knavery of Landlords,

THE

Impoſition of Quack Doctors,

THE

Roguery of Petty-Lawyers.

THE

Cheats of Bum-Bailiffs,

AND

The Intrigues of Lewd Women.

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ices of the Age, &c.

In the first Place I am going to give the Character of a SOT.

WHEN they meet together on a Sunday night, it very rarely happens that they have any money in their pockets any other part of the week: Come, ſays one, ſhan't we ſpend our ſeven farthings together? Aye, with all my heart and ſoul, ſays the other—for they will ſooner agree to waſte their money extravagantly than carry any home to their wives and families.

The firſt thing they call for is, Landlord, bring us a pot of good ſound beer, tobacco, and ſome long pipes—which are almoſt the drunkard's coat of arms, there are only two things wanting, the wheelbarrow to wheel him home when he can't go upright, and the ſtocks to hold him faſt when he can't govern himſelf; the latter is very neceſſary to keep fractious men quiet, the ſots will ſit at their heart's content, while their families are wanting bread; but would theſe men conſider their intereſt and ſee how the landlord will frown upon them when their money is gone, it might be a caution for them to amend their lives. Now a landlord ſhould have three things to qualify him for his calling, viz. a broad back to bear the ſkits his cuſtomers are pleaſed to throw upon him; a flattering tongue to ſmart them with a pleaſing

ſtory, while they are ſpending their money in folly, and a large gut to hold a good deal of liquor, for it is too often ſeen when they re got into gaming, the landlord is very watchful to trick them, for he will take the pot, go to the cellar, fill it three parts full, bring it up, and cry, Gentlemen, my ſervice to you; they can find no fault with his meaſure, becauſe he drinks to them, tho' rightly conſidered tis a downright cheat, for if he thinks well of entertaining them he ought in juſtice to give them their meaſure. Now obſerve how he will remove them with one word when their money is gone; if it be winter time, he ſays, Gentlemen, move farther out and let others come to the fire; now it's very rare but one of them bears the name of ready money, and happy is that man who retains a ſplendid ſhilling; money makes the landlord tractable and briſk, religion bears no mark of ſuperiority, his conſcience is blinded with the limitable image, and he cares not who ſuffers ſo as he can finger the dear deceit; but, indeed, what is got in one age by knavery and extortortion is ſpent in another by extravagance: now he whom we call ready money calls—What's the reckoning? pays it, and then walks out; the landlord follows him, and the common cry is, Welcome, ſir; for it is the opinion of many landlords, that when a man has ſpent all his money they don't care if he goes upon the highway for more, for he ſtands ready to call him Sir when he returns again: ſo if we look into the meaning of it, it is viſible to be ſeen through all this notion, that it is money bears the title of Sir, and not the man.

Now I muſt next inform you of thoſe idle tea and gin drinking women who can find little elſe to do but goſſip from neighbour to neighbour: now one part of the women are mad with pride, and the other for want of money to maintain it; ſo between pride, envy, and poverty, they are almoſt all mad. Now this *Gin* is a wicked ſlut, and has poiſoned a great many old women about London, and corrupted half the young ones; it is alſo a very hot ſort of liquor, and burns the clothes off many of their backs; now when the gin works in their crowns they will ſtart up in a great rage and ſcratch one another's faces, pull each other's caps to piece; and it was obſervable ſome years ago, when they had their liberty, they uſed to ſay, I will nap your cukold for this abuſe, for all law, though, perhaps, they han't two-pence in the world to help themſelves; and what can the lawyers ſay to ſuch gueſts? they won't meddle with them; Poor ſcrubs, ſay they, let them alone, they have no wool on their backs, what can be expected from them? So if you have no money you muſt expect no law, and very little juſtice, among ſome of your petty-foggers, if you have ever ſo much money, for the law is by all of them corrupted, there being ſo many of that calling that they are obliged to do it, otherwiſe they could not live.

The next are the ſix points of good huſbandry, which I wiſh all men to obſerve and keep, and then they need not be afraid of fat gut the landlord, a bumb bailiff, or a ſcolding wife. The common cry through Britain is, Lack-a-day! what hard times are theſe. Says another, I have lived upon trade theſe ſeveral years, but it grows worſe

and worſe; we can hardly ſee any thing but biting, tricking, ſharping, and cheating, for it is obſervable in moſt towns, if you will be honeſt your neighbour will not let you. But I think the times are much as they were—brave warm, pleaſant, and growing weather in ſummer: cold, hungry, barren, and fruitleſs weather in winter—ſo it always was—no alteration of the times and ſeaſons, but a great alteration of the people, and it is thought their own inventions brings ſo many misfortunes upon them. The natives of Britain carry the name of Chriſtians, but their actions prove the contrary to it, for they act to one another worſe than Heathens; they don't love to ſee one another thrive, for if one neighbour ſees another get wealth in this world, it is their daily ſtudy and contrivance to pull him down and ruin him, if ſpite and malice will do it; they will ſwear one another's lives away for the ſake of profit, intereſt, envy, or gain, this ſhews they are worſe than Heathens. The Turks, who are ſo barbarous in their actions, if they do but ſtroke their beards they will ſtand more by that than many in Britain will by an oath; and the common reflection they throw upon us, is, What! do you take me to be a Chriſtian, to ſwear and lie, and not ſtand to it? If you have a ſuit of law tried in many of the inferior courts of Britain, he is the beſt man who can bring moſt knights of the poſt to ſwear for him, which is a very unjuſt thing, eſpecially when one man for the ſake of a little money, will ſwear another's life away, and all he has in the world, if he has it in his power: this defect lies in the breaſts of the ſecond-handed lawyers that belong to thoſe infe-

rior courts, who have two thoughts generally attending them—the one for money, and the other for the ſtrongeſt ſide.

Now I will give you a ſhort character of a Quack Doctor. You ſhall ſee him in the market-place. The firſt that appears upon the ſtage is the Merry Andrew, who, tho' called a fool, has often readier wit than his maſter, and wiſer than thoſe who look at him. The next is a Tumbler, or Poſture Maker, who by his activity of body, ſurpriſes the lookers on: the Doctor mounts the ſtage, and appears like a ſecond-hand gentleman, with laced cloaths, bough in Monmouth ſtreet. He tells them he is a thorough bred doctor, bred either at Oxford, Leyden, or Edinbugh, and perhaps was never at any place of note in his life, except Bridewell or Newgate. Here ſays he, is my famous box of purging pills, which purges the blood and ſtomach, and creates an appetite. Here is my famous and renowned conquering worm powder, that will kill and deſtroy all ſorts of worms that are incident to human bodies. Good people, worms deſtroy more than the ſword, plague, or famine—which is partly true, for tis thought worms deſtroy part of the carcaſe after death. Good people, my medicines are not made up of a heap of naſty drugs, but of the beſt chemical preparations; keep them by you ſeven years they will retain their virtue, which is the trueſt word he tells them, for they had little or no virtue when he ſold them, and if they are kept twenty years they will not decreaſe much.

The next is the reaſon why a man muſt go to a doctor and can't help it. The firſt thing that was a dreſſ to mankind was the hoop-petticoat, it is as large in circumferenc

as the hind wheel of a coach; ſince that faſhion has been laid down, it is made into farthingales; but the hoops were more profitable for a whore, becauſe they ſhewed their handſome legs and fine clog ſtockings, very tempting to wanton-eyed fools when they gaze upon them. On a Saturday night, when a tradeſman has received his week's wages, and there are a great many tradeſmen in England who earn a guinea a week, notwithſtanding it is evidently plain, that their wives and families often go without a dinner on Sunday, through the temptation of a harlot. I ſay Saturday night is the beſt night in the week for their calling; for when a tradeſman is going home to his family and has got a little beer in his head, he is tempted by this or that common jilt; but would a man conſider the danger of ſuch a lump of miſery, he would never be deluded by them, but commonly he is for walking after them, when he is deluded into an alehouſe or tavern, where he ſpends his money fooliſhly upon them, and has little ſatisfaction, but is ſometimes ſet on fire in the middle, where he may burn to both ends before they will help him to quench it, then he muſt apply immediately to the doctor. He pulls of his hat and tells a lamentable ſtory. The doctor has a genteel way to fbringing him to a confeſſion. Yes, ſays he, I ſee you have been active in the School of Venus, take care, or it will ſhortly end your days; *I* will not meddle with you unleſs you'll pay me ſo much money down, and the reſt when *I* perform the cure. So if you encounter with doctors and lawyers, be ſure to carry the money along with you, for it is the beſt weapon you can fight with.

The next is concerning the Miſſes in the Hundreds of *Drury*. You will ſee them in the winter time come out of the hundreds like rabbits out of their burrows, where they ſit all day drinking wine, tea, and brandy; it is a hell upon earth for any moderate man or woman to be among them; and at night they conſider where to go to rob and plunder men; they then divide themſelves into ſmall parties, ſome to the Playhouſe, ſome to the Opera, Ball, or Maſquerade, wherever they think to meet with the greateſt prey, they there reſort to their ordinary, they have the beſt ſilks, gold bobs in their ears, diamond rings on their fingers, and watches by their ſides, they are patched, painted, and perfumed, and ſhine like a callico gown new glazed; but there

is no man that views them that can well believe they have got this rigging by honeſt or induſtrious means; they have no eſtates to maintain this pomp and impudence, but one room, and that a dreadful dark one, and a very dear one too, there are no window-lights belonging to it, ſo that they pay neither window-tax or ground-rent, neither is it inſured to any body. Nothing is more remarkable in the eye of a man than a lewd woman, nor doth any thing under heaven contribute more to a man's deſtruction.

Now *I* will give you an account of their actions: As they walk along the ſtreet, if they happen to meet a country gentleman, that looks freſh and jolly, genteel and perſonable, they puſh on before him like a haia out of a buſh, look over the ſhoulder, and ſmile in his face, the countryman thinking to get a fortune, walks haſtily after her; ſhe deludes him into an alehouſe or tavern. Here, landlord, ſays miſs, *I* have got a country chap, and muſt make the best of him *I* can. Bring us a quartern of brandy, or any ſort of liquor the houſe affords. That ſtifles his thoughts. She picks his pockets and then drops him. Then comes up Mr. Buſy Body, the landlord, ſaying, Pray ſir, where is the Miſs that was with you when you came to my houſe? *I* ſuppoſed her to have been your wife. The fool, finding himſelf dropped, feels for his money, and finding it gone begins to lament his misfortune. Says the landlord, *I* am ſurpriſed at your impudence to pretend to come into my houſe and call for liquor without money to pay for it. If he can't ſend for a friend to pay the reckoning, the landlord takes him into the ſtripping room, ſtrips his cloaths off, and turns him out of doors almoſt naked; perhaps the poor man can't go a begging, becauſe he was never bred to it, and aſhamed to go home to his friends, for fear of being laughed at by his neighbours, gets among a curſed gang of thieves, which brings him to the gallows, and that is the ſhameful fate many men are brought to by the inſtigation of a harlot, for they dreſs deſtruction gay, and pave with beauty the way to ruin.

FINIS.